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regiment of the royal guard going to review; in the next, a trumpet sounds, and the drums of the neighbouring piquets are heard beating the call. The coaches and six approach, guarded by a splendid accompaniment. The cry of "*Los Reyes!*" passes from mouth to mouth; and the Spaniards, unrolling their cloaks and doffing their hats, give place for the absolute king. Presently a bell rings, and every voice is hushed. A long procession of men, with each a burning taper, is seen preceding a priest, who is carrying the reconciling sacrament to smooth the way for some dying sinner. Does it meet a carriage, though containing the first *grande* of Spain, the owner descends, throws himself upon his knees in the middle of the street, and offers his carriage for the conveyance of the host. "*Su Majestad!*" "*His Majesty!*" to indicate the presence of the Saviour sacramentized, passes in a tremulous whisper from lip to lip. The faithful are all uncovered and kneeling; they smite their breasts with contrition, and hold down their heads, as if unworthy to look upon the Lamb.

"We were yet standing in the midst of this buoyant scene of bustle and confusion, when a sturdy wretch brushed past us, frowning fiercely on Don Diego. He was rolled in the tatters of a blanket, and had on a pair of boots so run down at the heel that he trod rather upon the legs than the feet of them. An old cocked hat, drawn closely over the eyes, scarcely allowed a glimpse of features, further hidden under a squalid covering of beard and filth. Though I had already seen many strange people in Spain, this fellow attracted my attention in an unusual degree. Not so with Don Diego. The fellow's frown seemed to forbid recognition, and he said not a word until he had been long out of sight. He at length told me that the man had once been his acquaintance, and was, like himself, a native of Cordova. He had been a captain of horse under the Constitution, and, having been a violent man, had lain long in the common prison after the return of despotism. When he at length escaped from it, Don Diego took compassion upon him, as one of his own province, and a companion in misfortune. He allowed him to sleep in the outer room of his apartment, and even shared with him the contents of his own scanty purse. Very soon after, his lodgings were robbed of every thing they contained, and his friend came no more to share his hospitality. In a short time some darker crime forced the miscreant from Madrid, and Don Diego had not seen him for more than two years. I inquired why he did not send the police after him. He answered that the police

would give him more trouble than the robber, and ended by saying, "Is it not enough that he has plundered me? would you have him take my life?"

Such is Spain, forming our judgment in the most favourable way, from the state of the capital; and just such must be the state of any country, where ignorance, superstition, and priestcraft, are allowed the despotism which they hold in Spain.

Popular Specimens of the Greek Dramatic Poets. Vol. I. London: Murray—1831.

We have been favoured with the sheets of this volume, which belongs to the Family Library, and is yet unpublished. The introduction, which is clearly the work of a sensible critic, who is also a refined and elegant scholar, we have perused with much pleasure. We admire, too, the very interesting account of the rise and progress of the Greek drama which is presented to us by the author. As for the actual specimens, they are chiefly taken from Potter's translation, the merits of which are universally acknowledged. We can honestly recommend the work to English readers, for whom it is principally designed. It is also rendered acceptable to the lovers of the fine arts, being beautifully embellished and illustrated with appropriate sketches by Flaxman.

Discourses on the Four Gospels, &c. By the late Thomas Townson, D. D. Archdeacon of Richmond. Republished by Doctor Elrington, Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Dublin, for the use of Students in Divinity.—Dublin: Hodges and Smith—1831.

Though it is beyond the scope of our Periodical to review works professedly theological—yet as the NATIONAL may get into the hands of those who take an interest in such all-important matters, we desire, even by means of a brief notice, to call attention to the work in question, which, in our humble view, ought to be in the hands, not only of every Divinity Student, but of every head of a family who desires to arm himself, his children, and dependants, against the cavils and superficial objections of the latitudinarian and infidel. The scope of

the author is best explained in his own words:

"I. That St. Matthew was the first writer of a Gospel; that he composed it early for the instruction of the Jewish people, and published it in Judea:

"II. That St. Mark was the second evangelist; whose Gospel was revised or even dictated by St. Peter: that it was compiled for a mixed society of Jewish and Gentile converts, and, according to all appearances, published at Rome or in Italy:

"III. That the next evangelist, St. Luke, wrote with a more peculiar view to the converted Gentiles, and, as seems likely, in Achaia:

"IV. That St. John had seen the three former Gospels, and bore testimony to the truth of them; and wrote his own probably after the destruction of Jerusalem, in Asia Minor.

"On these several heads I will first allege authorities from ancient Christian writers; and then endeavour to bring a consonant evidence from the Gospels themselves.

"But, as I propose to consider chiefly the *internal* evidence, I shall only give a summary view of the *historical*; collections of which may easily be found in learned authors, as Le Clerc in his *Evangelical Harmony*, Doctor Mill in the testimonies prefixed to each Gospel, Mr. Jones in his book entitled, *A new and full method of settling the Canonical Authority of the New Testament*, and Dr. Lardner in his valuable work, *The Credibility of the Gospel History*."

The author has performed his work with great perspicuity, judgment, and erudition: his references are abundant and precise; and in this volume the student will not only find what will prepare his mind to detect the plausibilities of Neologism, but he will find a direction to works of sound theology and standard authority.—Moreover, we are glad to find that the author does not confine his references to the lucubrations of high churchmen, but directs to such men as Owen and Doddridge.

The republication is creditable to Doctor Elrington—because, independent of the anxiety he hereby evinces to give a wider scope to the studies of theological aspirants, he has proved his industry (a thing, however so valuable, but little practised in this our day,) by adding those ample indexes, which greatly facilitate the mastering of the subject-matter of the volume.

An Introduction to Latin Syntax, by Josh. Mair, A.M. New Edition, &c.

AN excellent edition of a well known school-book. Mair's exercises have been for some time acknowledged generally to be the best introduction to the making of Latin, that can be put into the hands of the tyro; and we are sure that in this improved form, it is likely to come into still more extensive use, and reputation. The typography of the present edition is beautiful; those shameful inaccuracies that so disgrace the common run of school-books have altogether disappeared; some valuable additions and amendments have been made by the Editor: and the whole has been compressed into a portable pocket volume. The vocabularies at the end seem to have been got up with considerable care, and form a most valuable appendix.

The Tour of the Holy Land; in a series of Conversations. By the Rev. Robert Morehead, D.D. &c. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.

INDEPENDENTLY of its being consecrated by Jewish History, and scriptural allusion, Palestine is in itself a romantic country. Its frequent change of masters, and the vast difference of character observable among those who, at different periods, have been the lords of its soil, have proved that man is not so far the creature of circumstances as to render his disposition and manners dependent on the soil or climate of the country where he grows. But the scenery of Palestine is as diversified as its history. Its northern boundaries are the sublime and snow-capped mountains of Libanus; its southern and western, the barren and sandy wastes of Idumea and Arabia. The lovely sea of Galilee resembling in softness the lakes of Cumberland, and in grandeur those of the western Highlands of Scotland, seems as if set in contrast with the gloomy expanse of the Dead Sea, linked to it by the same river, and comparable in its dismal and desolate appearance, to no other spot in the wide world. Here ridges of lofty mountains and rugged rocks, there plains and valleys of more than Arcadian beauty meet the eye in every direction. While the ruins of ancient cities, spots honoured as the